

When the word Crisfield is used, it is assumed to reference Crisfield, Maryland, unless otherwise noted..

Title: Interview with Reverend Emanuel Johnson

Date: March 25, 2025

Location: Shiloh United Methodist Church, 109 N 4th Street, Crisfield, MD.

Interviewer(s): John Golladay and Mia Butta

Interviewee: Reverend Emanuel Johnson

Introduction: Reverend Emanuel Johnson talks about his experience living and working in Crisfield as a pastor, from the joys of the communities, the interruptions that flooding brings, to where he thinks Crisfield is going in the future.

[Transcription begins]

John Golladay (Golladay): Hi. How you doing? Hi. Well, we're here today. It's John Golladay and Mia Butta here on the 25th of March of 2025. We're here interviewing Reverend Emanuel Johnson here for the Crisfield Oral Histories project in collaboration with BEACON, Tetra Tech. So, first things first, how long have you been living in the Crisfield area?

Emanuel Johnson (Johnson): I was appointed to be the pastor here at Crisfield in July of 2021. I was appointed here, that's how long I've been here.

Mia Butta (Butta): So did you move here in 2021?

Johnson: I moved here. I'm under appointment by my local bishop in cabinet and so I was appointed here from Chestertown, Maryland, and was appointed here to serve full time.

Butta: And so, you've been here for around like four years?

Johnson: Yeah, I worked on my fourth year, yes.

Butta: Do you enjoy it so far?

Johnson: I do! Everything except flooding.

Butta: We'll get into that in a couple minutes. So, since you haven't been here for too long, I guess just some of the memories that you've had the past four years, anything that you cherished so far?

Johnson: Um, I like the people, I like the people, working with the individuals in the community garden. Finding and discovering the rich history, especially of those in the African American community that at one time were the backbone of the economy here in Crisfield. [pauses] I've enjoyed, enjoy that work here.

Butta: Have you attended any of the community events that they have here?

Johnson: I attend many of the community events. Many of the events at the Corbin Library, I have attended. I have also participated in the BEACON's program that they held about flooding here in Crisfield.

Butta: Is that the Crisfield Resilience Academy?

Johnson: Yes, I did that in Academy, yes, I did that Academy, I guess it was last fall, last fall we completed that. I try to take interest wherever I serve, you know, being part of the life of the community, whatever that means, you know. John Wesley, the- the founder of Methodism, says the world is my parish, and so that means I don't stay in my office all day. I have to get beyond the walls.

Butta: Well, that's good that you've been able to find a good community here since you've only been here for only a few years.

Golladay: You mentioned a community garden, like a- tell us a little more about that.

Johnson: I am the big creation care individual and a big proponent of community gardening and in a lot of communities where I've served, I've either founded or helped found or participate in community gardening as a means of not only putting healthy food on tables, but also building community, bringing individuals together that wouldn't normally meet and, and so I do that through community gardening. When I arrived here in '21, there was a space beside the city hall that I could tell had been a community garden, but it had been abandoned for a few years. It was, you know, weed growing out of the raised beds, and I'm saying like, "Okay." And so I went into town hall, "What's going on over here?" And they- they shared, "Oh, it used to be the community garden, it hasn't been active for many years," so I said, "Oh. Okay." And they gave me a person's name to contact. I contact that individual, and ever since then, we have been working in the community garden.

Butta: I guess the season, the growing season, is coming up now.

Johnson: We just started come up! We were supposed to start last Monday and it rained, so start yesterday and it rained, and- and- and we're going to an event next Monday up- up- up at the University and- and so we won't start until the 7th. And, and so we have partnered in the community garden with the University of Maryland Extension Service. We partner with Somerset County Developmental Center and those individuals come and work in the garden with

us when we're there on our garden days on Monday. I usually dedicate Monday mornings to working in the gardens during the growing season.

Butta: Moving on to the next question, what role does the waterfront or the Chesapeake Bay play in recreation and social life for the community?

Johnson: Oh, it's [pauses]

Butta: Yourself as well.

Johnson: It's central, you know. I- I like crabbing, even though I haven't been crabbing since I've been here. Fishing, I haven't been fishing since I been here, I just haven't had time. I guess I could make time. But I like the open space, I usually walk four miles every morning, five to six days a week. And so, I- it's a wonderful area, you know, to walk and for the past two years they've had a jazz on the waterfront. And so that's- that's been a good activity I've attended every year they, you know, and then they have, obviously, the Crab Derby weekends that are here, and so I participate in those type of things. [inaudible]

Golladay: What's the Crab Derby like?

Johnson: A lot of people- oh, and the other big thing is the J. Millard Tawes Crab and Clam Bake; that is a really big thing. I mean, when you have, you know, four to six thousand people come into town for this one day and during [pauses] you know, election years, every politician across the state.

Butta: So you'd say that it's mostly, like, everyone from Maryland, kind of from all different places?

Johnson: All! All across the state of Maryland. They'll come to Somers Cove and it's a really big activity and, you know, with, you know, with the seafood - the clams, crabs, fish, all- all the stuff, yeah. And yeah, and so everyone, but obviously, across the state. In fact, I'd been here to the event even before I was appointed here. I would come, I've been invited. So, I was familiar with it, so yeah. And that's the only thing I really look forward to every year. It's a really great time, because you see a lot of people that you don't see, because people that come, I mean, you run into somebody, "I haven't seen you for a few years," yeah.

Butta: Okay, I guess moving now, getting into more of the flooding and storms questions. Have you noticed changes in the land, weather, water, or flooding in Crisfield? Even though you've only been here for around four years and...

Johnson: Alright, like I said, I arrived here in, like I said, July. July 1, 2021, I was appointed. On July 28th... No, I'm sorry. On October 28th, my father died. And then on the 29th of October, nine days- nine years from when Hurricane Sandy came in, we had major flooding here in

Crisfield. And my car was flooded, parked in my driveway. Shot the electro system and I was angry because no one told me to move my car to higher ground. I had no idea that water, I mean when I got up that Saturday morning I was like, I was on an island. I mean, water was everywhere, and I could, some of it had receded, and I can see where the water level had gone up on the side of my car, you know, of how high it had been.

Butta: And where was your car at?

Johnson: Park right here, out here in the middle of the driveway. And this is the park and church right here. I live right next door to the church here. And yeah, killed my car. And so, and so now.

Butta: Yeah, that was only a few months since you came here.

Johnson: Yeah, yeah, yeah! And so now when they call for heavy rain, and usually they say it's September, the first part of November, it's a flooding time here. That you, when its having the moon is right or whatever the case might be in calling for rain and windy and wherever it's blowing, you know the water is high and, you know, you just have to move to higher ground. Most people go and park their cars at Food Lion. But recently [pauses] one of the parishioners who stays right behind here, her house is on a higher level, and I can go and park in her yard. I don't have to walk up to Food Lion, and I could park in her yard and at least my car won't be in the water.

Butta: So coming here, you weren't aware of how severe the flooding was?

Johnson: I was told that water would get high, and that first August, we had a funeral that was scheduled here and there was supposed to be the wake here on Friday night and Saturday was supposed to be a funeral, and it rained and rained and rained. The area was flooded. I mean, the road in front here, 4th Street was flooded, Locust Street was flooded, and there was no way you could come and park anywhere. The parking lot across here where you guys parked was flooded. And so, we had to move our funeral to the other church where I served, John Wesley, because there was no parking here.

[Phone call interrupts interview 00:12:41, interview resumes 00:13:03]

Johnson: Yeah, and, and so, and that's the issue. I mean, we- we'll have services and, if it rains really hard, this street will flood, Locust Street will flood, and, you know, you have to either end the service early or either cancel the service if it's, you know, or if it, while we're here and it's raining, you know, they'll come in, they'll have to when they go to the car, they have to wade in the water.

Butta: How often do you think you have to delay or cancel services?

Johnson: Um, it's usually once or twice a year that that will happen. I know we had, like I had a what we call a charge conference that was scheduled here where the district superintendent who was like the presiding elder over all the Methodist churches here in the area, this Crisfield area. We'll meet here or at one of the other churches, but we were scheduled to meet here, and we had to cancel because it was flooded. And so that had to be rescheduled because it's a mandatory meeting that you have. Other services we had, you know, had to postpone or cancel because of the flooding.

Golladay: Besides, like, moving your cars around, what other things do you or other residents that you know prepare for floods?

Johnson: Some of them have boots in their cars, in case they have to wade in the water. But, you know, you just, you know, you just be mindful if they're calling for rain, if it's going to be windy, and the position of the moon, you know be mindful what, you know, primarily is, you know, is my vehicle going to get flooded? It depends on if the wind's going to be blowing, position of the moon, because I could park my car far enough up in the driveway that yeah, Locust Street will be flooded, Fourth Street will be flooded, but it won't be as bad as the other storms. I mean, plenty of times, you know, this area is flooded, and I can't especially go out the front way, I'll have to try to go wade in the water. I can pull my car out and then go out in the back way, but I have to be careful because it floods when it's bad at the end of the street also. And they have like a little alleyway that I can cut, go into and drive through to get out, but that's not always the case. I mean, if it's really bad, you know, because that can ruin your car too, with the saltwater mix and messes up your brakes and those types of things.

Butta: So do you get the weather information just from, like, the news, or do you receive any warnings about it?

Johnson: Yeah, and in fact, there's Red Code Alert that we have here in Crisfield, and I'm, you know, I constantly look at, you know, the weather app, to see, you know, what- what's happening. It was just a few weeks ago that they had flooding. I don't know if you saw the news story, probably about two weeks ago, two, three weeks ago. And by chance, I had left Crisfield. I had an event to attend to, but coming back, you know, it was flooded.

Golladay: Was it like a learning process, figuring out where to move your things, how to navigate Crisfield and flooding events?

Johnson: Yeah, and it's still a learning thing, because even when I came back, I was going to go around the back way and come in the backway of Locust Street, but when I turned right there beside Bradshaw and was going go around, I got there right to the corner, and it was flooded! And I had to back up and go through the small alley that is there and come up Locust to get into the yard.

Butta: So you mentioned that on October 29th, it was like a pretty major flood event with your car. Was there any other storms or flooding events that you remember most vividly?

Johnson: In '22, just before Christmas of '22. I want to think December of '22, it must be like the 22nd, 23rd. Major rain, and freezing temperatures. I heard the forecast, and I said, I've gotta leave Crisfield before Christmas Eve because if I didn't, I wouldn't be able to get to my family. And so, I was able to leave, I think I left on the 23rd, but by the 24th, and Christmas Day, the flooding had occurred and freezing temperatures, and people were literally frozen in the roadways, I mean, from all the flooding and the freezing temperatures. And so, it was something else. [2022]

Butta: Yeah, that's sounds.

Johnson: Yeah, '22. But that's, yeah, the last major that I remember. I mean, we have flooding and flooding events, but nothing as major as like that that I remember. Yeah, I mean you'll come in and you have to. I mean Richardson Avenue, which is at Main Street out there. You have to ride in the middle because the water is up high.

Butta: Well, moving on to more of like community-centered questions around flooding and storms. Do you feel that climate change is something people in Crisfield actively discuss and plan for?

Johnson: I don't think they really discuss it. They realize things are happening, because I hear people talk, hey, it's flooding in areas that it didn't flood before, I mean, I think they've always dealt with flooding. It's just that we're seeing sea rise, you know, and the changes that are taking place because I hear them talk about the individual living on Chesapeake, how that area is flooding a lot now when the rain comes and whatever the case might be. And other areas over on Cove Street, I hear them talking Broadway, I hear them talking, you know, and they see it. But whether or not they attribute that to climate change or sea rise, I don't know.

Butta: Yeah, and I feel like the Crisfield Resilience Academy.

Johnson: They're trying to make people, you know, get them aware, hey, yeah, this is happening. You know, that's why, you with that Resilience Academy, you talk about and make sure the ditches are cleared and that the gates are working properly and that we have, you know, building barriers and those type of things, berms and those types of things.

Butta: So would you say that those types of events and community, community events, they are working and helping people understand better?

Johnson: I think for the people that take the time to attend those sessions, they become aware of how we can help with that, but I think there's a large segment of the community that, you know, this is just Crisfield.

Butta: Or that just like don't have the time to.

Johnson: Don't have the time.

Golladay: In terms of flooding damage, do you or anyone have had to make major repairs to your house, your car, etc.

Johnson: Yeah, I have worked since I've been here with Eastern Shore Long-Term Recovery, which came into the community after Sandy, that addressed the issue with those homeowners who had lost homes to the flooding in Sandy, building them new homes that are much higher. Now they have working to raise homes across the community, so they won't flood because they've had issues with flooding in the past. I have members of the congregation who have had their homes either raised or either the Long-Term Recovery has built them a home. Because her home, one of the members who was here, you know, she shared in the group I was with yesterday, water came in her house like five or six times. And at one point in time, her family had to live on the second floor of her house because of the flooding that kept coming and had ruined her stove and everything and they basically [pauses], but she lives over here on Chesapeake now. But across the community, you'll go through and you'll see homes that have been elevated or new homes that are quite high and many of them will have a- a very long ramp that, you know, because of the coding, you know, you can't just make it just a real steep or whatever you have to, you know, in certain angles, and that's why you have like.

Butta: Yeah, we weren't sure when we saw those if it was because of coding or if it was because people in wheelchairs that didn't have access.

Johnson: Well, I guess if it's an older person, because one of the homes that are back here, Ms. Hazel Cropper. You don't know if you've heard of Hurricane Hazel?

Butta: No, no, I haven't.

Johnson: Okay. If you look up Hurricane Hazel, I bet if you Googled Hurricane Hazel, she look up a Hurricane Hazel Cropper, she's a world champion crab picker, at the crab derby that takes place in September. She is one of those individuals that the Long-Term Recovery built a new home for. She's 86, 87, something like that, and she has one of the long ramps.

[Phone call interrupts interview 00:25:24, interview resumes 00:25:33]

Johnson: She has one of those homes that Long-Term Recovery built with a long ramp to get into her home, because it's quite high off of the ground. Her old home had been, you know, flooded and everything and so they tore down her old home and built the new home. And that's, I think the Long-Term Recovery right now, they're working on the 10th house right now here in the area. That, you know, families, that they're affordable.

Butta: Is it mostly just raising the homes because-

Johnson: Some of the homes are being, they have pledged to raise a hundred homes. I think back here on Chesapeake, there's a home that's being raised. And across the community, you know, individuals, they have to apply. And then Long-Term Recovery, then the Mennonite Disaster Services come in to volunteer, to build the homes.

Butta: So, is this something that could work with, like, public housing, or?

Johnson: It's not, this is an independent group. Most of the funding is from different organizations across, like I said, Lutheran Disaster Services, United Methodist Church, different organizations that give, and some of the state, you get state funding also, because it's called the Eastern Shore Long-Term when it used to be called Somerset County Long-Term Recovery, but they changed because now they work also in Dorchester. Because, you know, down in southern Dorchester area, they have a lot of flooding in that- those areas, and so they work with them also.

Butta: Moving into economy, economics, how has the local economy, particularly industries like fishing, crabbing, and tourism changed over the years or I guess since you've been here?

Johnson: Okay. Since I've been here, when I came here, I think there were like one or two crab houses that were still actively picking crabs during the crab season. And most of them used to start in April and would go all the way through early fall, and early to mid-fall picking crabs. At one time in Crisfield, there were more than 20 crab houses. Crisfield now is down to zero houses picking crabs. We still have, you know, crab houses in the Metompkin Bay. They still are processing oysters and processing soft shell crabs, but they have not picked crabs in two years at the Metompkin Bay. And so that industry is gone here. Handy's Seafood Company, which has been around for well over 100 years, is closing. I think they just have this skeleton crew right now.

Butta: Do you think that's because of like any of reasons like COVID maybe?

Johnson: Um, and not no, not necessarily COVID, I, the Todds who run Metompkin Bay shared, we have every year with a group, Holy Pickers, that I work with, we have what we call a hold-up service. And one of the owners of Metompkin Bay, the Todds, shared that the average crab picker when they closed or when they stopped picking was 70 plus years old, because the young people weren't picking crabs like they did in the past. In the past, a young teenage girl would be in the crab houses with her mother cracking claws before she started picking crabs, or was taught to pick crabs, and you talk to any old crab pickers, and they'll say that's what they did. They began when they were 10, 12 years old, working beside their mother cracking claws, and then when the inspector would come, because they were underage, they would all go outside or either hide under the tables while the inspector, inspector was there. And that was something that mothers taught their daughters, aunts, and grandmothers. They all worked in the seafood

industry, in the crab houses, you know, picking crabs. The crab houses ran from like six in the morning to late at night. Many people, if they even, if they had another job, they would go and pick crabs at night. Individuals who worked at, they call it Rubberset, that is right out here as soon as you come into town, what is it called, I can't think of the name, but they all call it Rubberset, but it's not Rubberset. But that's what they all called it. Many people worked there during the day and would go and pick crabs at night when they had crab houses. Other people, when the prison opened, would work at the prison during the day and pick crabs at night, for additional income, you know, if you could, know, it's extra money. But the crab industry is gone, it's gone as far as for pickers, for picking crabs. Now the- they get the crabs shipped in, and they can make more money sending them to other places for restaurants, for the all-you-can-eat type thing. That's more money than to pay someone five dollars a pound, to pick five dollars a pound.

Butta: Now, is there still an oyster industry down here?

Johnson: They still- there still is, there's still a place that are shucking oysters, yes. They still are shucking oysters. They're, shortly they'll be in the middle of processing soft crabs, and with that, you have to dress them, I don't know if with the soft shell crab you have cut the face off, and then you lift up the sides of the shell, cut the gills off, then the little apron part, the thing to tell whether it's a male or female, you cut that off also, and then wrap it. And that's still- there's still people who still do that. Metompkin Bay still does that, and I think Southern Connection still processes soft crabs. And so, I know Metompkin does the oysters, and I think there's somebody else that does the oysters. Yeah, but the industry is not what it used to be. You know, this used to be seafood capital of the world.

Butta: Do you feel hopeful about the future of local businesses here?

Johnson: Not for seafood. Not for seafood. Crisfield has the potential, I think, just to be a waterfront community that needs a focus on tourism, especially with restaurants, you know, shops, and those type of things. But again, I don't know if they could support a year-round business because people aren't going to come. I mean, because many of the individuals who come to Crisfield, you have to come to Crisfield if you want to visit Smith Island. And so, you can piggyback or to Janes Island, you know, the state park. But again, you know, that's something Crisfield has to decide, you know, how can we make Crisfield a destination place. I will share this, Crisfield has some of the most beautiful sunsets that you could ever want to witness, I mean. And that's what they need to focus on that, do something with Main Street, especially this front part of Main Street and right in the area there before you get to Town Hall. You need to make it attractive. I've worked in other waterfront communities. I've worked in Cambridge, served in Cambridge, St. Michael's, and Snow Hill, I see what the downtown could look like, and then you come to Crisfield, and it's like, please, do something.

Butta: Do you have any opinions on how the city, county, or the state has handled the issues, the flooding issues?

Johnson: They're trying to address it, you know, there's been pressure on the current mayor who had the idea when she ran that to bring some things into Crisfield, a convention center, maybe have a water park and some other things. But she's done a lot of concentration on the infrastructure because you have to deal with the flooding issue first. And she's raised over \$36 million to help elevate road surfaces, so people can get in and out of the community. And until you address that, if I had a business, I'm not going to put my business on Main Street, and it's likely that my business is going to be flooded out. I mean, that happened to the Subway, that was when I came here, there was a Subway on the corner of Main Street here. It got flooded, during that '21 storm. It closed. It's hard enough to run a business, but you have to worry about your business flooding. That's, you know, I mean, yeah, and there are other businesses that have opened, but they have to, you know, that reality, hey, if it floods.

Butta: So I think we're a little bit over halfway now. We have some personal opinion questions left. Do you think younger generations are less likely to stay in Crisfield?

Johnson: Absolutely, they're not going to stay here. There's nothing, their job perspectives are minimal. I mean, where are you going to work? McDonald's? There are very few positions at the hospital. I mean, you can go to work at the nursing home, and that's not going to pay anything, unless you're RN or whatever. And then we have Rubberset that is there. But outside of that, what do you have here for them? Unless you're going to drive to Princess Anne or to Westover to the prison.

Butta: Do you see yourself staying here long term?

Johnson: Probably not. I mean, it's a nice appointment, but I have asked my district superintendent, hey, I'm putting my name out there. I've considered moving to another appointment somewhere that's- it's one way in, one way out, you know, and, you know, and so I don't see myself retiring here. And so, if she tells me, you call me tomorrow, say, hey, I got another appointment, you know, I'm gone.

Butta: I mean, you don't really know how many years it's going to take to get the infrastructure down.

Johnson: No, no, because I mean, no, because that's not going to be done for another year or two years of- because she's applied for another grant to get the other end of town. This is just for one end of town, the first \$36 million dollars, but they applied for another grant, to get to the other of the town. So, we're talking some time. You know, it's going to be a while.

Golladay: As someone who hasn't lived in Crisfield their whole life, interacting with people who have, what are your thoughts on how they feel about staying in Crisfield or leaving Crisfield, their attitudes on Crisfield?

Johnson: I think if you're older, or if you've been here all your life, you know, this is home. You know, you- you- this is home, you- you know, this is what you're going to have to deal with, or you've dealt with it all your life. And so, this is home, and so, you know, they're not going anywhere for the older, older individuals. It's the younger, younger individuals, many of the younger who don't want to stay. I believe, that's my belief, that they don't plan on staying here. If you are planning on educating yourself. Maybe they'll come back to retire, but not, you know, you're not gonna stay here. I mean, it makes a nice pace of life and if you didn't have to deal with the flooding. But you know, it'll be okay.

Butta: Would you recommend Crisfield as a place to live?

Johnson: Nice place to visit for a short while, but I don't know if I want to live here full time. If I was like, if I said, you know, if had the possibility to retire here, would I retire here? I wouldn't. It might be a nice community for someone, but it's not nice, it's not- not for me. I mean, with- with the culture that- that is here, you know, that this is, well, anywhere on the Eastern Shore, you know, you're dealing with a conservative population. And, that culture is part of the community, and some people just live with it, you know, because that's what they lived with all their lives. If they're fine with it, you know, hey, more power to them. But I choose not to. I mean, you know, during the last election, you know, this community, this area, Eastern Shore, is, you know, primarily a right- right-wing conservative, Trump-loving community. This is, right down here, had a Trump parade. And then where I walk in the mornings back here behind the library, you know, all those boats had Trump flags and they're all plastered there, and because of that culture, I feared for myself and the safety of my congregation that Kamala Harris if had won. Because I know the mindset of many of those who follow, and you have to deal with that in the back of your head. I changed even my evening Bible study. During the election, I said because if she had won, I wouldn't want to be, I mean, where the other church is located on the back road. And I passed some houses that have Trump flags flying and everything, and I said, it won't be safe for us to meet here, if she wins, because they're going to be angry and that anything could happen. I mean, I mean, you know, I- I'm not being racist, but, but this is reality.

Butta: No, you're being very valid.

Johnson: You know, and I think about my own safety, you know, I mean, because even like, if I was fearful, if she had won, even to walk, you know, past those boats when I see them gathering in the morning, you know, that someone would throw me overboard.

Butta: Do you think that there's dividing views between like the flood, like the floods here and climate change, do you think there's dividing views between?

Johnson: I mean, they see the reality of it, but they won't acknowledge it, because that segment of the population, you know, they live in denial. It's in their faces, but they live in denial. [Pause then laugh.]

Butta: Ah.

Golladay: You've mentioned like closer ties with the African American community here in Crisfield, like, how.... Just talk about them if you would. What are your experiences with the African American community here?

Johnson: We have a good African American community, but you also have a segment, you're dealing with Somerset County, which is the poorest county in the state, and so you're dealing with a population that is in the Housing Authority, you know, lives in public housing, that you deal with those issues that, you know, that go along with poverty. You know, drugs, and unemployment, but, you know, it's- it's a- I think African American community is still close even though, you know, you have a segment that lives there in the Housing Authority that have moved here to the area, because, you know, the apartments are available whatever their case might be. But, in general, the African American community is fairly close. A lot of family ties that are here, especially for older families that have been here for a while. And so, they remain close, supportive for one another.

Butta: I think we're on our last question, right?

Golladay: I think so.

Johnson: It's gone quickly.

Butta: Yeah, so just to end on more of a positive note, do you have any wisdom you'd like to share for any future generations?

Golladay: It's going to be preserved in the Nabb Center, so if you have anything you want to share with people in the future...

Johnson: I pray that, especially the African American community, those especially African Americans who have been here historically, their families have been here historically, hold on to their family land, their family property. Hold on to the legacy, especially of the women who were the backbone of the economy of Crisfield, because I'm hopeful for Crisfield that maybe Crisfield will rise again like the phoenix. And yeah, when this revitalization will take place on Main Street, down at the dock area, tourism will be the backbone of the economy here in Crisfield. And then they'll be able to share the legacy of the seafood industry and then have, you know, people coming in, you know, to share where the old crab houses were and, you know, life here in Crisfield, a slower place, but a nice place that you can live. You know, that's my hope for Crisfield and that, and that will continue to tell the story of, like I said, the women, especially African American women who worked in the crab houses and what their days were like as they put food on the table for their families by picking crabs. You know, the mayor shares that, that's the only job that her mother had. That's all she remembers her mother doing, picking crabs to

support their family. And even when she went off to college, that's what she did during the summer: she picked crabs. A woman who would go off to be a defense contractor, have a government clearance, but chose to come back after 20 years to serve her community and share that legacy, because it's gonna be gone soon.

Butta: That's it.

Golladay: Okay, that's it. That's it, thank you.

[Transcript ends]